

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-18 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 13-16 and 17/13 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1, 12, 17/1 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Friedman et al. This rejection is overcome by amending claim 1 to include,

"said n pieces of variable capacitance circuit are connected in parallel so that each capacitance variation characteristic against said control voltage inputted to said variable capacitance circuit has the same directional characteristic;

said control voltage inputted to said n pieces of variable capacitance circuit is the same voltage;"

The support for the amendments may be found in the originally filed specification; for example, see page 23, lines 3-16.

The invention in Friedman et al. attempts to cancel a common mode signal component by using variable capacitance elements. These variable capacitance elements are connected so that signals at the positive and negative input terminals have inverse capacitance variation characteristics with each other. The reference voltages 162, 164, 166, 168 are configured so that the capacitance variation sensitivity of the variable capacitance elements against the control voltage is equal. (Fig. 1). The feedback-controlling voltage of an oscillation frequency is a differential signal. Thus, the control voltage inputted to voltage terminals 118 and 120 is inverse in polarity. (Col. 4, lines 20-28; column 10, lines 54-56; column 11, lines 24-30 and Fig. 1). Further, the capacitance variation characteristics of variable capacitance elements (VDCE) are inverse in order to cancel common mode signal component.

In Applicants' invention, an advantage is that the total capacitance of the variable capacitance circuits slowly increases against the control voltage. Thus, the change in the oscillation frequency can be rendered moderately over a wide range of the control voltage. In the invention to Friedman et al., the oscillation frequency

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cannot be rendered moderately over a wide range of the control voltage. Thus, there is a sharp contrast between Applicants' claimed invention and the disclosure of Friedman et al.

Because Friedman et al. do not disclose or suggest this limitation of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Friedman et al. Claims 12 and 17/1 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 12 and 17/1 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Friedman et al.

With regard to claim 18, while not identical to claim 1, it includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claim 18 is also not subject to rejection for the same reasons as those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 2-11 would be allowable if amended to be independent and to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Because, as described above, claim 1 is in condition for allowance, no amendment to claims 2-11 is needed.

The prior art made of record but not applied has been considered but does not affect the patentability of the invention.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 12, 17/1 and 18.

Respectfully submitted,

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